

"THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON COAL"

Dear Rand

# 36

BRIEF SUBMITTED BY THE ASSOCIATED BOARDS  
OF TRADE OF CAPE BRETON ISLAND

Hon. Mr. Justice Ivan C. Rand, and Members of Her Majesty's  
Commission:-

Our geographical proximity to the United States exposes, all Canadian manufacture and some basic products to natural and competition from larger volume and preferable production opportunities.

Only through some form of protection, direct or indirect assistance, can most Canadian manufactured products and these basic products, with an adverse production ratio of 10 to 1, survive the competition for markets. The ratio of 10 to 1 refers to U.S.A., or other countries, where manufacturers of an article or suppliers of a basic product have a potential market ten times as great as the manufacturers of a similar article, or basic product, have in Canada. Exchange, wage rates, economic conditions, and standards of living would also have a bearing.

Too few Canadians realize that regardless of the method used to equalize the difference in cost between a Canadian article and its American counterpart, the total retail cost difference comes out of the Canadian consumer's pocket. Import duties, legal minimum freight charges by nationally-owned or subsidized carriers, freight subventions on the movement of goods and products, direct subsidies or other aids are justifiable means of perpetuating jobs in Canada. Only through jobs can the Canadian economy be sound. Only through jobs can the Canadian living standards continue to improve, but the cost of perpetuating jobs, in essence, comes out of the pocket



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OF TRADE OF THE BRITISH ISLANDS

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of each Canadian citizen. Every taxpayer contributes to these costs.

Coal from Eastern Canada is not excepted from this long list of somehow aided or protected manufactured and basic products. Coal today is an energy resource so valuable to Canada, that even while the Canadian coal industry is in an economic chaos because of insufficient revenue and its inability to economically take advantage of some of the natural demand, most of the bituminous coal consumed by industry and Canadians comes from the United States.

This anomaly or inconsistency thunderously poses an interesting question. The question simply is this. How long would the automobile and electric appliance manufacturers of Central Canada, the wheat farmers of the West, or the thousands of other producers and manufacturers, be in a better economic position than the coal industry of Nova Scotia, if the amount of real assistance received per person employed were only equal to the amount now afforded the coal industry. It is respectfully suggested to your Honorable Sir, and to the members of your worthy staff, that the answers you will find to that question during the course of your Commission's lengthy and serious studies will be an important factor in reaching practicable and urgently required solutions.

The concentration of population and influence in Central Canada has long left the Atlantic Provinces in the position, where, to win support for their justifiable merits, the Eastern Provinces need create understanding of their proposals. Because the solutions eventually reached have, in the past, lacked permanency, the frequency of presentations by the Maritime Provinces increased. It is unfortunate that too many Canadians have interpreted the unavoidable and frequent presentations as indicative of a desire to seek handouts, lean upon the public treasury or beg. Such thinking is unwarranted







and unfair to the people of the Atlantic Provinces, unbecoming to all segments of Canadian thinking, and less than our concepts of the fairness for which Canadians are traditionally known. Awareness of such thinking by even some Canadians is resented in the Maritimes, damaging to national unity and conducive to the lessening of common morale. History and examination of the record proves the stout loyalty to Canadian principles and the appreciation for common welfare shared generally by the people of the Maritimes in peace and war.

No effort will be made here to enter into any discussions of the physical, technical or economic problems encountered by the coal industry of Nova Scotia. Nor will there be any attempt to advance specific technical or economic solutions. We presume there will be presentations made by others more qualified. We would respectfully suggest that it is our hope that representatives of various firms and groups, who employ qualified technical staffs, will be submitting briefs to Her Majesty's Commission, which briefs will contain definite facts and figures regarding transportation, engineering, marketing, production, research, and the many other factors that affect the problem confronting the Commission, particularly in the area of research, both from the view point of the development of by-products of coal as an outlet, and from the view point of the use of coal as a fuel. As an example of the latter, we would suggest a more intensive research towards the end of using a single thermal heating unit to supply heat to housing project groups, city blocks, etc, by metering heat from the central thermal power station to the various individual units. This field of research in itself, we feel, would result in providing very economical and efficient heat at greatly ultimate reduced cost to the consumer. If such briefs are not submitted, we would respectfully suggest that the Honorable Commission could obtain these facts from the Federal Research Department,







Bureau of Statistics, engineering staffs of the companies involved, and other sources. Should it be felt that the Associated Boards of Trade of Cape Breton Island could be of any assistance to the Commission, we would be very happy to receive any directive from the Commission.

It is our purpose here only to offer our support of the respective presentations, express our implicit faith in the ability of Her Majesty's Commission to find, recommend, and present practical solutions to challenging problems and to urge that these solutions have an adequate degree of permanency, thus resulting in reasonable stability and our greater contribution to the progress and growth of a strong and free nation.

In closing, we herewith restate our convictions that regardless of size or type ownership, the biggest and best contribution to national strength and acceptable living standards can only be made by industry while experiencing economic stability, because only thereby can employment be promoted and perpetuated.

THE ASSOCIATED BOARDS OF TRADE OF  
CAPE BRETON ISLAND

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HONORARY PRESIDENT,  
M. R. Chappell

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SECRETARY TREASURER  
Charles R. Lorway



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